



# Initiative 1

## *Integrated Regional Water Management*

### *Principles of integrated regional water management*

- Use a broad, long-term perspective
- Identify broad benefits, costs, & tradeoffs
- Promote sustainable resource management
- Increase regional self-sufficiency
- Increase regional drought preparedness
- Use open forums that include all communities
- Promote coordination & collaboration among local agencies & governments
- Use sound science, best data, & local knowledge

The principles of integrated regional water management have a broad and long-term perspective. By applying the principles, regions develop plans that have multiple benefits. As an example, in some areas of the state, agricultural users have developed projects that simultaneously conserve water, reduce contaminants, preserve the agricultural economy, and improve aquatic habitat.

State government must help cities, counties, local water agencies, and private utilities to prepare useful integrated regional water management plans. With the State's help, local agencies and governments will put into effect existing legislation and State policies that improve coordination between water and land use planning.

### **Diversify Regional Water Portfolios**

Every region of California must build a balanced water portfolio that increases water use efficiency and maximizes our return on investment in sound water management policies. Every time water is wasted, money and a precious resource go down the drain. Continued investment in our existing facilities and carefully planned new water developments will provide the strong foundation to meet future needs. But Californians also must promote water conservation and recycling, enhance groundwater storage, provide adequate supplies of water for the environment, and support innovative water technologies such as desalination to reduce the impacts of droughts, support a vibrant economy, and meet water needs for the future.

California's regions cannot meet all of their water objectives with a single strategy. This water plan update describes 25 resource management strategies. These strategies are like individual tools in a tool kit. Just as the mix of tools in a tool kit will vary depending on the job, the combination of strategies varies from region to region depending on the individual situations surrounding water supply and use, climate, projected growth, and environmental and social conditions.

A diverse portfolio of water management strategies is essential to provide the flexibility needed to cope with changing and uncertain future conditions.

### *Essential Support Activities*

*Water Plan Update 2005 also identifies the following support activities, which are essential to all the actions and initiatives.*

- Provide effective State government leadership, assistance, and oversight.
- Clarify State, federal and local roles & responsibilities
- Develop funding strategies & clarify role of public investments
- Increase tribal participation and access to funding
- Ensure Environmental Justice across all communities
- Adapt for global climate change impacts
- Invest in new water technology
- Improve water data management and analysis
- Increase scientific understanding

